

February 21, 2017

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, and Representative Walker:

I am writing in support of the Educational Center for the Arts, a critical arts-based program which has served New Haven and surrounding communities for 43 years. I urge you to fully fund the ECA program and support the students it critically serves.

As an isolated young teen, Educational Center for the Arts gave me the knowledge that the world was much, much broader than I had thought – and that I had value in that world. Beyond being useful as a career option, I learned that my talent for writing was something I could like about myself; something that formed the seed of who I was in the greater world. Being part of the ECA community gave me a sense of identity and confidence which led me to who I am now, sharing what I love with children on the autism spectrum and helping build bridges among theater lovers in Rhode Island. ECA's connection across town lines and across disciplines remains a critical initiative for building strong community members who shape the future of our country.

Thank you for your support of this important organization.

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